(c) In the current financial year, pulses had registered an increase of 6.3% till mid November, 1995 except in case of gram whose price had fallen by about 20%. Amongst cereals, wholesale price of wheat was marginally lower than last year, but price of rice was up by 6.6%. Some of the price changes in vegetables are seasonal and their price, especially of onion and potatoes fluctuates widely between seasons. Eggs, fish and meat together rose by about 5% this year. However, price of kerosene has remained unchanged for the past two years.

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government during the current financial year to moderate the growth of prices are as follows:

(i) Strengthening of Public distribution system and supplementing supplies, if necessary, by imports.

(ii) Waiving of stock limit for imported essential products.

(iii) Adjustment in trade and tariff policies in the Budget for current year to ensure that domestic prices of industrial products remain competitive.

(iv) Substantial reduction in excise duties on a number of items.

(v) Reduction of fiscal deficit in the budget proposals for the current financial year.

(vi) Placing a cap on Central Government's borrowings from the RBI through the issue of ad-hoc Treasury Bills and containing monetary growth through a series of measures including raising of CRR and sale of Government Securities by the RBI.

Entry of Private Sector into Power Transmission

882. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have deferred a decision on permitting the entry of private sector into power transmission;

(b) whether Government have allowed amendments to the Electricity Supply Act, 1948 to permit exclusive transmission projects in the public/ Government sector to act as generating companies;

(c) if so, whether Power Grid Corporation of India which have so far been acting as a generating company would now get legal sanction for its transmission activities also; and

(d) if so, whether this decision will also help several States in processing and finalising proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Power Shortage in Karnataka

883. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the persisting power shortage in Karnataka due to steep fall in hydel generation;

(b) whether Government are also aware that power shortage is forcing the industrialists to consider relocating the industries outside the State and also adversely affecting the prospects of new investments;

(c) the steps taken to estabilise the generation capacity of Raichur Thermal Power Station which has been facing frequent shut downs due to inadequate linkage with Singareni collieries; and

(d) whether Government would ask the CEA and the Southern Electricity grid to supplement supplies to the State, with an additional 1000 MW during peak load hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI

PATEL): (a) and (b) During the period April-Coctober, 1995 the energy shrotage in Karnataka was 14.6% and the State Govt. has imposed certain restrictions on supply of power to various categories of consumers.

(c) To make up for the shortfall of linkage from Singareni Collieries which was having production constraints, linkage to Raichur TPS had been provided from the Western Coalfield Ltd. and Mahanadhi Coalfields Ltd.

(d) It is not possible to supplement supplies to Karnataka by an additional 1000 MW during peak load hours from the central generating stations.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited Shillong and related papers.

III. MOU (1995-96) between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited.

VI. MOU (1995-96) between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and Power Finance Corporation Limited.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): Madam, I Lay on the Table—

A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

I. (a) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

(Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8364/95)

II. (a) Ninteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1994-95, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

(Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8365/95) also copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, for the year 1995-96.

(Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8366/95)

IV. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Power) and Power Corporation Limited, for the year 1995-96.

(Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8367/95)

I. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Bombay and related papers.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Finance.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL) Madam, I lay on the Table—